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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Continuation of Serial No. 08/586,094

Applicants : PETER CHARLES EASTTY, et al.

Filed : Herewith

For : AUTOMATION OF SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Official Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following as the first paragraph on page 1 of the specification:

--This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/586,094, now pending.--

Applicants have requested amendment to page 6, line 16, as follows. A marked-up version of this paragraph indicating insertions is included as an attachment to this amendment.

--Referring now to Figure 1, a small part of the channel processing for one audio channel of a digital audio mixing console comprises a fader (potentiometer) 10, a unit converting the position of the fader into a control quantity (such as decibels of gain) for processing the audio data of that channel 20, a summation unit 30, a coefficient generator 40 and a multiplier 50.--

Applicants have requested amendment to page 7, line 36, as follows. A marked-up version of this paragraph indicating insertions is included as an attachment to this amendment.

--Comparing Figures 1 and 2, the fader 10 forms part of the panel 80, with the panel processor 80 controlling the digitising of the fader position. The position converter 20, summation unit 30 and coefficient generator 40 are embodied by the control processor 70. Finally, the only part of Figure 1 which is actually part of the signal path, the multiplier 50, is provided by the signal processor 60.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 13-19.

Applicants have requested amendment to claims 1-12, a copy of each of these claims being presented herein. A marked up copy of each of these claims indicating insertions and deletions is included as an attachment to this amendment.

1. (Amended) A signal processing system in which a set of automation commands are generated based upon a timecode signal and a first set of automated signal processing functions associated with a first signal processing apparatus for controlling said first signal processing apparatus via said first set of automated signal processing functions, said automation commands also controlling the operation of at least a second signal processing apparatus having a different set of automated signal processing functions and based upon a different timecode signal.

2. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, in which each said timecode signal is associated with a respective source signal supplied to said respective signal processing apparatus.

3. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, each of said apparatus being an audio mixing console.

4. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, comprising means for receiving automation commands by said first of said signal processing apparatus, each automation command comprising

an automation control command and information specifying [one of] said associated timecode signal.

5. (Amended) The system according to claim 4, in which said receiving means comprises means for retrieving automation commands stored on a storage medium.

6. (Amended) The system according to claim 5, in which said storage medium is a magnetic disk medium, a magnetic tape medium, or an optical disk medium.

7. (Amended) The system according to claim 5, comprising means for recording and/or retrieving an automation database on said storage medium, said automation database specifying said automation points within said first signal processing apparatus on which said stored automation commands were generated. 8.

8. (Amended) The system according to claim 7, comprising means for comparing said retrieved automation database with an automation database comprising automated signal processing functions associated with said second apparatus, to detect whether said stored automation commands are compatible with said second apparatus.

9. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, comprising:

means, responsive to a detection of an automation command in a current set of automation commands calling a further set of automation commands, for initiating execution of said further set of automation commands.

10. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, in which said automation commands specify respective quantities to be applied to a source signal.

11. (Amended) The system according to claim 1, comprising means for recording automation commands on a storage medium, together with information identifying a respective timecode associated with each automation command.

12. (Amended) A signal processing system in which automated signal processing functions in a first signal processing apparatus are controlled by a stored current set of automation commands associated with said first signal processing apparatus, a second signal processing apparatus comprising means, responsive to a detection of a particular automation command in said current set of automation commands, for calling a further set of automation commands associated with a second signal processing apparatus for initiating execution of said further set of automation commands.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment makes reference to the parent application and places this application in the condition of the parent application. No new matter is added. Entry of the above amendatory matter and early examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following as the first paragraph on page 1 of the specification:

--This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/586,094, now pending.--

Applicants have requested amendment to page 6, line 16, as follows. A marked-up version of this paragraph indicating insertions is included as an attachment to this amendment.

--Referring now to Figure 1, a small part of the channel processing for one audio channel of a digital audio mixing console comprises a fader (potentiometer) 10, a unit converting the position of the fader into a control quantity (such as decibels of gain) for processing the audio data of that channel 20, a summation unit 30, a coefficient generator 40 and a multiplier 50.--

Applicants have requested amendment to page 7, line 36, as follows. A marked-up version of this paragraph indicating insertions and deletions is included as an attachment to this amendment.

--Comparing Figures 1 and 2, the fader 10 forms part of the panel [85] 80, with the panel processor [85] 80 controlling the digitising of the fader position. The position converter 20, summation unit 30 and coefficient generator 40 are embodied by

the control processor 70. Finally, the only part of Figure 1 which is actually part of the signal path, the multiplier 50, is provided by the signal processor 60.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicants have requested amendment to claims 1, 5-7 and 9-12, a copy of each of these claims being presented herein. A marked up copy of each of these claims indicating insertions and deletions is included as an attachment to this amendment.

1. (Amended) [Signal] A signal processing system in which [at least two sets of automated signal processing functions are controlled by stored automation commands, at times dependent upon at least two respective timecode signals] a set of automation commands are generated based upon a timecode signal and a first set of automated signal processing functions associated with a first signal processing apparatus for controlling said first signal processing apparatus via said first set of automated signal processing functions, said automation commands also controlling the operation of at least a second signal processing apparatus having a different set of automated signal processing functions and based upon a different timecode signal.

2. (Amended) [Apparatus] The system according to claim 1, in which each said timecode signal is associated with a respective source signal supplied to said respective signal processing apparatus.

3. (Amended) [Apparatus] The system according to claim 1, each of said apparatus being an audio mixing console.

4. (Amended) [Apparatus] The system according to claim 1, comprising means for receiving automation commands by said first of said signal processing apparatus, each automation command comprising an automation control command and information specifying [one of] said associated [independent] timecode signal[s].

5. (Amended) [Apparatus] The system according to claim 4, in which said receiving means comprises means for retrieving automation commands stored on a storage medium.

6. (Amended) [Apparatus] The system according to claim 5, in which said storage medium is a magnetic disk medium, a magnetic tape medium, or an optical disk medium.

7. (Amended) [Apparatus] The system according to claim 5, comprising means for recording and/or retrieving an automation database on said storage medium, said automation database specifying said automation points within said first signal processing apparatus on which said stored automation commands were generated.

8. (Amended) [Apparatus] The system according to claim 7, comprising means for comparing said retrieved automation database with an automation database comprising automated signal processing functions associated with said second apparatus, to

detect whether said stored automation commands are compatible with said second apparatus.

9. (Amended) [Apparatus] The system according to claim 1, comprising:

means, responsive to a detection of an automation command in a current set of automation commands calling a further set of automation commands, for initiating execution of said further set of automation commands.

10. (Amended) [Apparatus] The system according to claim 1, in which said automation commands specify respective quantities to be applied to a source signal.

11. (Amended) [Apparatus] The system according to claim 1, comprising means for recording automation commands on a storage medium, together with information identifying a respective timecode associated with each automation command.

12. (Amended) [Signal] A signal processing system [apparatus] in which automated signal processing functions in a first signal processing apparatus are controlled by a stored current set of automation commands[,] associated with said first signal processing apparatus, a second signal processing apparatus comprising means, responsive to a detection of [an] a particular automation command in said current set of automation commands, for calling a further set of automation commands associated with a second signal processing apparatus for initiating execution of said further set of automation commands.